

MEAP

**MICHIGAN
EDUCATIONAL
ASSESSMENT
PROGRAM**

**High School Test
In Reading**

**Part 2B: Response to the
Reading Selections**

*Released Items
Spring 2003*

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PART 2B

RESPONSE TO THE READING SELECTIONS

DIRECTIONS:

Write a response to the scenario question that is stated in the box below. You may look back at both of the reading selections to help you answer the question at the end of the following scenario.

Scenario:

Many adults, parents, and community leaders are concerned about the increase in the number of young people who indicate that their own particular interests, such as computers, music, fashion, or even autos, do not necessarily require formal coursework or schooling. You have been asked to contribute an essay to a brochure that your school guidance department plans to publish about the importance of continued learning and education.

Scenario Question:

What would you have to say about the value of lifelong education and learning? Your own ideas and experiences may be used in your response, but you *must* refer to information and/or examples from both of the reading selections in Part 2A of this test to be considered for full credit. You must also show a connection across the two selections.

The lined space on pages 33–34 in this test booklet may be used for writing down ideas, organizing your thoughts, or writing a rough draft. Use the checklist on page 35 to help you write your response. Page 36 contains the scorepoint descriptions used by readers to score your response. Nothing written in this booklet will be scored.

THE FINAL COPY OF YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE WRITTEN IN YOUR PART 2 ANSWER FOLDER STARTING ON PAGE 2.

Holistic Scorepoint Descriptions
Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Here is an explanation of what readers think about as they score your writing.

- 6** The student effectively synthesizes and applies key ideas, generalizations, and principles from within each reading selection to support a position in response to the scenario question and makes a clear connection between the reading selections. The position and connection are thoroughly developed through the use of appropriate examples and details. There are no misconceptions about the reading selections. There are strong relationships among ideas. Mastery of language use and writing conventions contributes to the effect of the response.
- 5** The student makes meaningful use of key ideas from within each reading selection to support a position in response to the scenario question and makes a clear connection between the reading selections. The position and connection are well developed through the use of appropriate examples and details. Minor misconceptions may be present. Relationships among ideas are clear to the reader. The language is controlled, and occasional lapses in writing conventions are hardly noticeable.
- 4** The student makes adequate use of ideas from within each reading selection to support a position in response to the scenario question and makes a connection between the reading selections. The position and connection are supported by examples and details. Minor misconceptions may be present. Language use is correct. Lapses in writing conventions are not distracting.
- 3** The student makes adequate use of ideas from one reading selection **OR** makes partially successful use of ideas from both reading selections to support a position in response to the scenario question. The position is developed with limited use of examples and details. Misconceptions may indicate only a partial understanding of the reading selections. Language use is correct but limited. Incomplete mastery over writing conventions may interfere with meaning some of the time.
- 2** The student makes partially successful use of ideas from one reading selection **OR** minimal use of ideas from both reading selections to support a position in response to the scenario question. The position is underdeveloped. Major misconceptions may indicate minimal understanding of the reading selections. Limited mastery over writing conventions may make the writing difficult to understand.
- 1** The student does not take a position on the scenario question but makes at least minimal use of ideas from one or both of the reading selections to respond to the scenario question or theme **OR** minimally uses ideas from only one of the reading selections to support a position in response to the scenario question. Ideas are not developed and may be unclear. Major misconceptions may indicate a lack of understanding of the reading selections. Lack of mastery over writing conventions may make the writing difficult to understand.

Not ratable if:

- A** Retells or references the reading selections with no connection to the scenario question or theme
- B** Off topic
- C** Illegible/written in a language other than English
- D** Blank/refused to respond
- E** Responds to the scenario question with no reference to either of the reading selections

Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Begin writing your final response here.

If schooling really wasn't important, then why are there schools? If everyone believed that it is not necessary to be educated in their area of work, more people would choose those fields, leaving less job openings and opportunities. Going to school helps determine if you actually do want to go into that field. If not, then you still have a chance to change your mind. Anything is possible if you put your mind to it. Anything in the world can be achieved.

Non-Scorable Code: E

This student responds to the scenario question, but does not reference either of the reading selections.

Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Begin writing your final response here.

The value of life long education was to help people learn new words from the Dictionary. The teacher was very nice. She would introduce people to her students. The teacher passed away on July 31. They went to school at St. Louis Park High School. Malcolm X was born in 1925. He spent time in prison. He would love to go to school. Now he is writing letters during the rest of his time in prison. He would understand what the books were saying. He would copy the whole dictionary. till he knew all the words in the dictionary. He never had been so truly free in any life.

Score Point: 1

This student references the scenario question, but only makes minimal use of ideas from both reading selections, with no support for the position.

Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Begin writing your final response here.

Malcom X thinks that the dictionary is a book that people should start using if they have trouble with learning and writing. He talked about himself by not writing in a straight line. I think in today's life if someone was going to school and they had a disability of not writing straight they would then be in a special education program. Malcom X learned his ways of learning new words he didn't know about is by having a dictionary, he said that a dictionary is like an encyclopedia. There are people out there who do different things in learning new things, like computers and books. Malcom X just did his own way of learning by having his dictionary and studying it.

Score Point: 1

This student does not state a position and makes minimal use of ideas from one reading selection (Malcolm X learned new words by having a dictionary).

Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Begin writing your final response here.

Fellow Students what do you think?
That is the question I ask you
about lifelong education. The way
I see it is learning opens whole new
worlds. If we didn't learn to write
you could never pass notes to your
friend in class or write to
that friend in Texas. Face it
with out my education I would not
be happy. You can learn when
ever and wherever you want. For
example Malcome X learned to read and
write in prison. You'll be great full
that you got a good education
later in life.

Score Point: 1

This student states a position and makes minimal use of ideas from one reading selection (Malcolm X learned to read and write in prison).

Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Begin writing your final response here.

I would have to say that a lifelong education is always a very valued thing to have since you are always learning something new everyday in all that you do so personally a life long education is a very important and valuable thing to have and those that don't have an education at this point in their lives. Since it is never too late to begin getting an education. Education is lifelong it is never too late to begin learning. People can learn from teachers or they could learn by themselves or even from others in their lives that influence them. Learning is fun and is possible no matter how young or old you are. There is no age limit on learning. So getting an education would be a great idea. Go for it.

Score Point: 2

This student states a position and makes minimal use of ideas from both reading selections (People can learn from teachers or they could learn by themselves).

Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Begin writing your final response here.

Lifelong education and learning goes on and on. You can always learn something new. Like Malcolm X did in prison. He never stoped him from getting better at understanding things and improvement on penmanship.

Score Point: 2

This student states a position and makes partially successful use of ideas from one of the reading selections (Like Malcolm X did in prison ... getting better at understanding things and improvement on penmanship).

Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Begin writing your final response here.

I think that learning is a process that everyone goes through. Each and every day people learn something new. Especially with all the new technology we have these days. My auto mechanic teacher tells that he still learns new things and that he learns from us. But we still need to be taught the basics and fundamentals and we need good teachers to teach it. Mrs. Steinberg from "My Favorite Teacher" was one of those teachers and we need more like her. She was hard but good. Sometimes people are unfortunate to have that and have to learn on their own like Malcolm X did. Learning is a life long process.

Score Point: 2

This student states an implied position and makes minimal use of ideas from both of the reading selections (Mrs. Steinberg was a teacher who was hard but good; Malcolm X had to learn on his own).

Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Begin writing your final response here.

Education and continued learning are the most important things in life. Learning can make you a better person and even get you a better job.

Self-motivation and attention to details are practices learned in education.

Malcolm X knew that determination and self-motivation were important. He taught himself to read and write while he was in prison. This allowed him to feel free even though he was in jail.

Hattie Steinberg knew that fundamentals and details were important. She taught this to her students.

A lifelong Education is the most important thing in your life.

Score Point: 3

This student states a position and supports it with partially successful ideas from both of the reading selections (Malcolm X knew that determination and self-motivation were important ... taught himself to read and write while in prison ... felt free even though he was in jail; Hattie knew that fundamentals and details were important and taught this to her students).

Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Begin writing your final response here.

Lifelong education is something that everybody should practice. Even if you plan to go into one of these fields such as music or autos, it is still best to educate yourself so you can do more than just one thing; you don't want to be a complete idiot.

Malcom X was a very intelligent man. I believe the reason for his intelligence is due to his determination.

When he was imprisoned he copied down the dictionary to expand his vocabulary and writing skills; he was constantly reading books; this is why he was so successful, he wanted to better himself.

There is a direct correlation between "Malcom X" and "My Favorite Teacher." They both believed in self-determination and doing whatever necessary to better yourself.

However, I believe this can only be done if you truly want to do this in your heart.

Score Point: 3

This student states a position and supports it with partially successful use of ideas from one of the reading selections (Malcolm X's intelligence is due to his determination, when imprisoned he copied the dictionary to expand his vocabulary and writing skills). The student also recognizes a connection between the two reading selections (they both believed in self-determination and doing whatever necessary to better yourself).

Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Begin writing your final response here.

Learning and education is a continuous process. Education is one of the most valuable gifts you can give yourself. An educated person over time builds character and the only way to be fully educated is to start with learning the fundamentals. I think formal coursework or schooling is a necessity. The author of My Favorite Teacher states, "It turns out that the real secret of success in the information age is what it always was: fundamentals - reading, writing, arithmetic, church, etc." Some people think these fundamentals don't require schooling in order to be learned but I can not think of any other way to download this information other than the old fashion way.

Malcolm X writes, "I saw that the best thing I could do was get hold of a dictionary - to study, to learn some words. Being in prison Malcolm X realized the importance of a good education. He realized that each and every day it was necessary to make time to learn and study. Malcolm X also writes, "I suppose it was inevitable that as my word-base broadened, I could for the first time pick up a book and read and now begin to understand what the book was saying." As you can see, learning took Malcolm X to a new and higher level. As he read his knowledge grew and he could understand and perceive many new and

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different things. Learning opens up new worlds for people.

In conclusion, education and learning have an enormous value. Each day gives us an opportunity to enhance our knowledge and go on to the next level. As a person learns their knowledge enhances causing them to become wiser. Wise people have character and a person with character is respected. Malcolm X and Friedman would probably agree that people can learn at any time during their lives.

Score Point: 3

This student states a position and supports it with partially successful and adequate use of ideas from both of the reading selections. The attempted connection between the two reading selections (Malcolm X and Friedman would probably agree that people can learn at any times during their lives) is a restatement of the theme (Lifelong Education).

Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Begin writing your final response here.

The value of learning and lifelong education is that people can still learn new things and understand new things. Malcolm X did not know how to read or write but he got a dictionary and learned new words he didn't know existed. The journalist never liked to write but his teacher influenced him to continue on writing so that later on down the line he might become a writer. Both Malcolm X and the journalist never gave up on learning new things.

Score Point: 4

This student's response states a position and supports it with the use of ideas from both of the reading selections, although it has two misconceptions. The student recognizes a connection between the two reading selections (both Malcolm X and the journalist never gave up on learning new things).

Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Begin writing your final response here.

There is much value of lifelong education. I personally think that formal education certainly helps and contributes towards lifelong education, but isn't completely essential in life. For example, Malcolm X gained all his own knowledge on his own, without any formal education whatsoever, since he was in prison. It was just him and the dictionary. There were no teachers or formal educating authority at all.

In "My Favorite Teacher," formal education is what eventually leads to lifelong education. Since the student became very close with her teacher, it was just one single formal class of journalism that eventually set her career for her. Her teacher Hattie M. Steinberg was of great value to the student because she laid down the fundamentals and was a tough teacher, but turned out being her favorite teacher and friend to help her pursue her career as a journalist.

The connection between the two selections is that one can pursue his or her goals with passion and dedication. As long as one is dedicated, it can take that person wherever they would like to go.

Score Point: 4

This student states a position and supports it with adequate use of ideas from both reading selections, and makes a connection between the two reading selections (one can pursue his or her goals with passion and dedication).

Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Begin writing your final response here.

Although education is a lifelong process, formal schooling early in life is essential to providing a foundation for learning. It provides both a medium for learning fundamentals and a process for continuing education later in life, both formally and through life experience. Thus, it is imperative that a student begins his or her formal education at a young age and continues it at least until he or she reaches adulthood.

Many students argue that if they are to pursue their interests in areas such as computers or fashion, there is very little that a formal education can do to prepare them for their future careers. They say that while formal education stresses subjects such as reading and math, what they really need to know won't come from that, but from the life experience gained through their future jobs. What they don't seem to understand is that school provides a student with his or her first life experience, teaches the basic skills needed to hold any job, and builds character.

The knowledge acquired in school provides the framework for any future learning. Without this framework, it would be very difficult to know where to begin learning.

As Malcolm X writes when he described the slow process of really learning to write, "I didn't know which words

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I needed to learn." Formal school provides a methodical process of learning so that later in life, a person ~~does~~ know where to start, or what questions to ask if he or she is uncertain. That is something that can never be learned through technology contrary to what many students believe. Technology is merely an avenue for learning not the basis. As the author of "My Favorite Teacher" writes "The Internet can make you smarter but it can't make you smart. It can extend your reach, but it will never tell you what to say at a P.T.A. meeting". School is necessary to build a person's character and provide a setting where social interaction is encouraged but controlled so that students learn how to cooperate or politely disagree with others. It lays down educational fundamentals that can't be taught elsewhere. While students argue that life experience is the only true teacher, it remains true that they can't expect to get a job in the first place without formal school. Even in an age of technology, these basics are still important. One author sums it up: "It turns out that the real secret of success in the information age is what it always ~~was~~ fundamentals—reading, writing and arithmetic, church, synagogue, and mosque, the rule of law and good governance." The classroom provides a place where fundamentals can both be learned and lived.

Both authors would argue the importance

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of a basic education in a person's life. They would both say that it was those fundamentals (and dedicated adherence to them) that shaped the people they would become. School is life experience; it is not a road block to it. We live in the real world now. There is no magic wand one can wave after stopping school to make life really start. Making the most of an education will ensure that a student gets the most benefits out of life. It is only in first being students of books that people can later become students of experience.

Score Point: 4

This student states a position, supports it with adequate use of ideas from both of the reading selections and makes a connection between the two reading selections (both say it was those fundamentals and dedicated adherence to them that shaped the people they would become).

Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Begin writing your final response here.

Education is a lifelong process. This was demonstrated by both author's in Part 2A. The Malcolm X piece showed the importance of self-motivation, while "My Favorite Teacher" emphasized the importance of outside influences. These pieces together formed a main idea that learning is lifelong.

In the Malcolm X piece, the author reinforces the importance of self-motivation for continued education. For example, the author writes about how he educated himself through the use of a dictionary, "I...learned of people and places and events from history." Also the author describes the pride he felt as he learned new words, "I woke up the next morning, thinking about those words — immensely proud to realize that I'd written words that I never knew were in the world." This proudness, shined throughout the piece and stressed the importance of lifelong learning. Malcolm X finished his piece by saying how until he educated himself he had "never been so truly free in my (his) life." The statement shows how much his education meant to him.

OVER →

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In "My Favorite Teacher," the author talks about how much his teacher helped him in leading a life of continuous learning. The fact that his teacher, "someone who made the most important difference," in his life, shows how much education can have a lifelong effect on a person. The author writes that "We all graduated 41 years ago, and yet nearly each day of our lives something comes up—some mental image, some admonition that makes us think of Hattie." This fact that this teacher is this important to the author, shows how important education is in life.

Both writer's felt education was something that continued over time and never stopped. This is true to life because one can learn something new everyday.

Score Point: 5

This student states a position, supports it with meaningful use of key ideas from both of the reading selections and recognizes a clear, contrasting connection between the two reading selections (Malcolm X showed the importance of self-motivation on learning and My Favorite Teacher emphasized the importance of outside influences on learning). While there is a very clear, contrasting connection in the first paragraph, the attempt at the connection in the last paragraph is simply a restatement of the theme.

Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Begin writing your final response here.

Lifelong education is something that every individual should pursue. Learning is a process that goes well beyond high school or college, and it can shape who you are as a person.

An example of this is Malcolm X. He took a bad situation (prison) and made the best of it by studying the dictionary. Even though he was incarcerated, he claims it was the most truly free he had ever been. Studying the dictionary allowed him to understand other books that he could now read, and this broadened his horizons considerably. This dedication to learning improved the rest of his life and changed his entire outlook.

The author of "My Favorite Teacher" shows another way that learning can have a profound effect on a person. The author writes about how Hattie Steinberg, his journalism teacher, taught him lessons that he has applied and learned from ever since. She hammered into him the importance of fundamentals and discipline. The author applied these lessons to his life and became a successful journalist, and he still learns the significance of these lessons today.

Both of these examples share some common characteristics. They both had to show discipline and dedication to learn from the things around them.

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Both had to look at the lessons they were learning and apply them to their own lives. Both realized that learning is a lifelong process and it continues well beyond the walls of formal education. Learning is self-improvement, and is something that is very beneficial if you put in the right amount of effort.

Score Point: 5

This student states a position, supports it with meaningful use of key ideas from both of the reading selections and recognizes several clear connections between the two reading selections (both had to show discipline and dedication to learn from the things around them and apply them to their own lives).

Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Begin writing your final response here.

Today there is an extremely high value of life long education and learning. It is important for people to continue to want to learn throughout their life to get the full aspect of life.

In Malcolm X, Malcolm ~~was~~ was in jail but determined to ~~to~~ learn how to read and write. "I began copying [the dictionary]" "With every succeeding page, I also learned about people ^{places} ~~places~~ and events in History." Malcolm X had the determination and heart to push him self to learn. He did not learn to read and write while in school, he taught himself while in prison. If he would have not pushed himself and wanted to learn while in prison he probably would have never learned to write or read. Malcolm X is an extremely good example of how determination and heart can teach you to learn something at any stage in your life. By doing this he gained much more out of life then he would have.

Like Malcolm X, In the story My favorite teacher Friedman shows how a teacher can show you something back in the 10th grade and you will continue to use and improve on it your whole life. "In 11th grade I didnt quite come up to her standards, so she made me business manager, That year though she let me write one story." Hattie M Steinberg showed her students that to achieve something in life you have to work for it, it is not just handed to you. Like Malcolm X who had to be determined to reach his goal so was Friedman. Friedman also states that technology will not make you smart it will only make you smarter. It is the fundamentals of reading writing...etc that make a person smart. Malcolm X

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did not learn what he did with technology, he learned it through basic reading and writing. Both selections show that with basic fundamentals in life and the determination and heart to achieve your goals you easily can, and lifelong education and learning are important to everyday life.

Score Point: 6

This student states a position, supports it by effectively applying key ideas from both of the reading selections and makes a clear connection between the two reading selections (both Malcolm X and Friedman show that with basic fundamentals in life and determination, you can achieve your goals).

Part 2B: Response to the Reading Selections

Begin writing your final response here.

Young people, students, think that they already know everything and believe that they do not necessarily require formal coursework or schooling, even for their own particular interests. Most successful people continue to practice and learn up to the day they die. Civil rights leader malcolm X valued education very highly and so did the author of "My Favorite Teacher." The value of lifelong education and learning is very important and it provides success to the most famous people and even to the everyday human being.

malcom X was a very powerful and successful civil rights leader. While Malcom X was in prison he was determined to improve his penmanship because he "couldn't even write in a straight line." He also wanted "to learn some new words" so he got a dictionary and began writing every word out on some tablets. He then even read the words out loud to himself to become more familiar with them. After practicing and

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practicing his penmanship, vocabulary and even writing speed improved immensely. He thought that the dictionary was like a miniature encyclopedia because he learned about people, places and events from history. Learning opened up new worlds to Malcom X and he showed us that a person's limitations can be overcome by will and effort. Without this continued education, Malcom X may not have been the same influential leader that he was to so many.

Not only does lifelong education help famous people, it helps everyday people like you and me as seen in "My Favorite Teacher." The author's Kithmale journalism teacher believed that fundamentals was the key to success. Hattie, his teacher, even stressed to be professional you have to look professional. Not only did Hattie make her students better journalism students, she made them better individuals for the rest of their lives. The author indicated to us that some important things never change hinting that he still uses those fundamentals that Hattie had taught him like reading The New York Times. Hattie's influence on her students extended to other areas of their lives and the author says that, "I sit up straight just thinkin' about her,"

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to show that he is still affected by Hattie's expectations. In this case, the basic principles that the author learned as a student are still important to him today as an adult.

In both of these cases, education is related to a lifelong process. Both Malcolm X and Hattie Steinberg believed that starting with the fundamentals is essential. As both authors experienced continued success, they emphasized that learning is a continuous process. Also, they both agree to pursue your goals with passion and dedication. Most importantly, Malcolm X and Friedman give us a message in their selections that people can learn at any time during their lives and it will carry on with them forever.

No matter what you are working towards, practice makes perfect. It is very important to continue learning and education because with it, the sky is the limit and you can reach whatever level of success you want to depending on how hard you want to work and make yourself better.

Score Point: 6

This student states a position, supports it by effectively synthesizing key ideas from both of the reading selections and makes a clear connection between the two reading selections (both Malcolm X and Steinberg believed in starting with the fundamentals, which will carry on with them forever, and pursuing your goals with passion and dedication).